

State of California
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
SALES AND USE TAX REGULATIONS

Regulation 1699. PERMITS.

References: Sections 6066-6075, Revenue and Taxation Code.

(a) IN GENERAL — NUMBER OF PERMITS REQUIRED. Every person engaged in the business of selling (or leasing under a lease defined as a sale in Section 6006(g)) tangible personal property of a kind the gross receipts from the retail sale of which are required to be included in the measure of the sales tax, and only a person actively so engaged, is required to hold a permit for each place of business in this state at which transactions relating to sales are customarily negotiated with his or her customers. For example:

A permit is required for a branch sales office at which orders are customarily taken and contracts negotiated, whether or not merchandise is stocked there.

No additional permits are required for warehouses or other places at which merchandise is merely stored and which customers do not customarily visit for the purpose of making purchases and which are maintained in conjunction with a place of business for which a permit is held; but at least one permit must be held by every person maintaining stocks of merchandise in this state for sale.

If two or more activities are conducted by the same person on the same premises, even though in different buildings, only one permit is required. For example:

A service station operator having a restaurant in addition to the station on the same premises requires only one permit for both activities.

(b) PERSONS SELLING IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE OR TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. A permit is not required to be held by persons all of whose sales are made exclusively in interstate or foreign commerce but a permit is required of persons notwithstanding all their sales (or leases under a lease defined as a sale in Section 6006(g)) are made to the United States or instrumentalities thereof.

(c) PERSONS SELLING FEED. Effective April 1, 1996, a permit is not required to be held by persons whose sales consist entirely of sales of feed for any form of animal life of a kind the products of which ordinarily constitute food for human consumption (food animals), or for any form of animal life not of such a kind (nonfood animals) which are being held for sale in the regular course of business, provided no other retail sales of tangible personal property are made.

If a seller of hay is also the grower of the hay, this exemption shall apply only if either:

1. the hay is produced for sale only to beef cattle feedlots or dairies, or
2. the hay is sold exclusively through a farmer-owned cooperative.

(d) CONCESSIONAIRES. A retailer is liable for the payment of tax measured by receipts from retail sales made in his or her place of business by operators of concessions therein, unless the concessionaires obtain permits from the board for their operations at that place of business.

In the event the retailer fails to make a return and remit the amount of tax due with respect to operations of the concessions, the concessionaires must secure permits and file returns together with remittances of the amount of tax due.

(e) AGENTS. If agents make sales on behalf of a principal and do not have a fixed place of business, but travel from house to house or from town to town, it is unnecessary that a permit be obtained for each agent if the principal obtains a permit for each place of business located in California. If, however, the principal does not obtain a permit for each place of business located in California, it is necessary for each agent to obtain a permit.

Regulation 1699. PERMITS. (Continued)

(f) INACTIVE PERMITS. A permit shall be held only by persons actively engaging in or conducting a business as a seller of tangible personal property. Any person not so engaged shall forthwith surrender his or her permit to the board for cancellation. The board may revoke the permit of a person found to be not actively engaged in or conducting a business as a seller of tangible personal property.

Upon discontinuing or transferring a business, a permit holder shall promptly notify the board and deliver his or her permit to the board for cancellation. To be acceptable, the notice of transfer or discontinuance of a business must be received in one of the following ways:

(1) Oral or written statement to a board office or authorized representative, accompanied by delivery of the permit, or followed by delivery of the permit upon actual cessation of the business. The permit need not be delivered to the board, if lost, destroyed or is unavailable for some other acceptable reason, but notice of cessation of business must be given.

(2) Receipt of the transferee or business successor's application for a seller's permit may serve to put the board on notice of the transferor's cessation of business.

Notice to another state agency of a transfer or cessation of business does not in itself constitute notice to the board.

Unless the permit holder who transfers the business notifies the board of the transfer, or delivers the permit to the board for cancellation, he or she will be liable for taxes, interest and penalties (excluding penalties for fraud or intent to evade the tax) incurred by his or her transferee who with the permit holder's actual or constructive knowledge uses the permit in any way; e.g., by displaying the permit in transferee's place of business, issuing any resale certificates showing the number of the permit thereon, or filing returns in the name of the permit holder or his or her business name and under his or her permit number. Except in the case where, after the transfer, 80 percent or more of the real or ultimate ownership of the business transferred is held by the predecessor, the liability shall be limited to the quarter in which the business is transferred, and the three subsequent quarters.

Stockholders, bondholders, partners, or other persons holding an ownership interest in a corporation or other entity shall be regarded as having the "real or ultimate ownership" of the property of the corporation or other entity.

(g) DUE DATE OF RETURNS — CLOSEOUT OF ACCOUNT ON YEARLY REPORTING BASIS.

Where a person authorized to file tax returns on a yearly basis transfers the business to another person or discontinues it before the end of the yearly period, a closing return shall be filed with the Board on or before the last day of the month following the close of the calendar quarter in which the business was transferred or discontinued.

History: Effective July 1, 1939.

Adopted as of January 1, 1945, as a restatement of previous rulings.

Amended August 2, 1965, applicable on and after August 1, 1965.

Amended and renumbered November 3, 1969, effective December 5, 1969.

Amended May 25, 1977, effective June 24, 1977.

Amended May 1, 1985, effective May 31, 1985. Subdivision (e)(2) has been changed to provide that penalties for intent to evade the tax are excluded from the type of penalty the permit holder would be liable for if the permit holder fails to notify the Board of the transfer of a business.

Amended June 22, 1995, effective July 22, 1995. Amended subdivision (e) as provided in Statutes of 1993, Chapter 1109.

Amended April 25, 1996, effective May 25, 1996. Added new (c) to incorporate provisions of Chapter 696, Statutes of 1995 and renumbered the following subdivisions.

Regulations are issued by the State Board of Equalization to implement, interpret or make specific provisions of the California Sales and Use Tax Law and to aid in the administration and enforcement of that law. If you are in doubt about how the Sales and Use Tax Law applies to your specific activity or transaction, you should write the nearest State Board of Equalization office. Requests for advice regarding a specific activity or transaction should be in writing and should fully describe the facts and circumstances of the activity or transaction.